



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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## South Central Montana Interoperability Consortium Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The South Central Montana Interoperability Consortium met in Bozeman on Wed., Nov. 12. Chair Peggy Glass began the meeting with county reports. Park County reported that the Myers Flat Radio Site is almost complete and is in the process of having the power run and the generator tested. A site walk is tentatively scheduled for next week. Park County is in the process of having microwave installed to link to dispatch.

Sweet Grass County reported that the Grey Cliff site easement has finally been signed. The Statement of Work (SOW) for the site had been presented to Sabre Towers for a bid. Soil samples are slated to begin next week, and the NEPA study is in the works. The county is still moving forward on Phase I and Phase II of E9-1-1 Wireless. Gallatin County reported that bids are being secured for a 200-amp electrical power upgrade on the Timberline Site. The county is progressing well with bids due next Monday on its new 9-1-1 dispatch building.

Peggy attended IM Finance, Governance and Project Directors meetings last week in Kerry O'Connell's absence, and she highlighted key decisions. She also reported on the IM Technical Committee five-year planning session in Billings on Oct. 21 where consortium members were able to delineate additional infrastructure, microwave and trunking needs for the region.

Tom Smith, Northrop Grumman, stated that soil samples are being obtained at the Sierra and VC Pass sites. All the EA studies for NEPAs are complete for the Southwest Leg PSIC Investment Justification #2 project.

The next SCMIC meeting will be held in Livingston on Wed., Dec. 10 at 10:00 am in the Community Room of the City County Complex, 414 East Callender Street.

## Eastern Tier Interoperability Consortium

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The Eastern Tier Interoperability Consortium (ETIC) met on Wed., Nov. 12 in Glendive. Chair Dennis Palmer, Richland County Undersheriff, brought the meeting to order and introductions were made. Chief Alan Michaels gave a report on recent IM Finance, Governance and Project Directors meetings. He also reported on recent frequency approvals. Everyone was brought up to date on recent activities along the Northern Tier. Chief Michaels distributed copies of the Radio System Administrator and Project Manager positions. Dennis Palmer will be attending the fleet-mapping work session in Kalispell next week.

Chief Michaels reviewed Executive Committee decision making, committee reports, and a productive meeting with the Dept. of Justice. and Governor's office

support. Members were informed about the status of the draft Sustainability Plan. Another work session is scheduled to take place in Helena on Tues., Nov. 25. He also reported on a recent decision to purchase administrative software for trouble shooting the microwave system.

Dennis Palmer reported on the IM Technical Committee five-year planning session on Oct. 21 to assess all consortium communications projects. He explained a south central and south eastern microwave ring projects for the Eastern Tier. Site walks and path analyses will be performed this winter. He also is looking at Sioux Pass tower sites and easements.

Chief Michaels said the lease agreement on the Autovon site needs to be finalized and submitted ASAP. Pam Crisafulli reported on information needed from each county for the FEMA Fire Grant application and distributed an information gathering form. This information is due before Christmas. Everyone is still working on their needs assessment spreadsheet. A new site has been identified in Garfield County, referred to as the Southwest Repeater.

The next meeting will be on Wed., Dec. 17 at 10:00 am at the Dawson County Courthouse community room, 207 West Bell, in Glendive.

## Central Montana Consortium Meets

By Scott Bradford [sbradford@mt.gov](mailto:sbradford@mt.gov)

The Central Montana Interoperability Communications Consortium (CMICC) met in Great Falls on Wed., Nov. 12, for its regularly scheduled meeting. IM Executive Director Kevin Bruski attended to provide information regarding priorities and IM Project Director activities.

The group discussed the draft Sustainability Plan and collected comments and ideas to be submitted to the IM Governance Committee. Project Director Cheri Kilby stressed the importance of providing ideas and feedback for this effort. The consortium also received site reports from all active IM sites in the region.

The next CMICC meeting will be Wed., Jan. 7 at the Wheat Building, 750 6th Street SW, in Great Falls.

## I-15/90 Corridor Consortium Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The I-15/90 Corridor Interoperability Consortium met Thurs., Nov. 13, at the Butte Chamber of Commerce. Project Director Dave McPherson brought the group up to date on the FEMA Fire Grant. A recent FEMA inspection went well. Tom Dunne, Dunne Communications, outlined the rest of the radio installation schedule and indicated that informal evening training sessions will be held.



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Wing Spooner, PSSB, reported on the five-year planning session that took place in Billings on Oct. 21. This plan will be used to build the five-year IM budget. The Anaconda Fire Hall is on the list of future sites. Priority will be given to those sites that have all their permits, agreements, easements, and frequencies in place. Members also discussed the progress of Enhanced 9-1-1 in the area.

Tom Smith, Northrop Grumman, said that the Sabre Tower sub-contractors visited the Lost Creek, Butte 9-1-1 and XL Heights sites as well as all the sites in the Southwest Leg. The purpose of the visits was to provide site construction bids. The NEPA sub-contractor also visited sites that need NEPAs, and it is in the process of writing reports. Soil testing also was performed on all the green sites. In the springtime, all the sites should be ready for build-out. Four NEPAs submitted to FEMA last summer still have not been reviewed.

Dave McPherson reported that all remaining construction work at Red Mountain is complete, and DES has been authorized to pay the final contractor bills. Another construction season has been lost because of FCC delays on frequency licensing for Red Mountain. Congressional delegation representatives will be invited to the next consortium meeting to apprise them of the situation.

Tom Dunne reported that all the COPS Grant radios have been delivered and all local jurisdictions have paid their 12.5% matching money, so distribution will take place soon.

Dave McPherson reported on the last IM Project Directors meeting and said that the Project Manager and System Administrator positions that have been listed with the Job Service. He also said that a successful demonstration of connectivity between Havre and Helena took place last week. The first fleet mapping training session is next week in Kalispell. Additional training sessions are planned.

The next consortium meeting will begin at 10:00 am at the Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George St., on Thurs., Dec. 18.

## Mobile Data Working Group to Formalize Needs Analysis

By Scott Bradford [sbradford@mt.gov](mailto:sbradford@mt.gov)

A working group appointed by the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Consortium initiated a process to complete a detailed needs analysis at a Wed., Nov. 12 meeting in Great Falls.

The MDT Consortium, working with the IM Project and a Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant obtained through PSSB, is planning to expand and update mobile data capability throughout the state. Originally, the plan called for a pilot project in Great Falls utilizing wide-band 700 MHz spectrum by obtaining a

waiver from the FCC regarding Montana's 700 MHz license. A Request for Information (RFI) was issued to collect design and costing proposals from vendors. The submissions did not provide sufficient information to determine a direction for this project.

With the recent Highway Patrol decision to utilize Verizon network system statewide, a void exists between local mobile data needs and options for future expansion. The working group initiated a needs assessment to better define current and future mobile data needs for public safety in Montana. Project Manager Mark Adams, Northrop Grumman, will lead the assessment with assistance from PSSB and Yellowstone County. The working group hopes to provide a report to the MDT Consortium and the IM Technical Committee in January.

## Upcoming Meetings

### Nov. 17-Nov. 20

Fleet Mapping Training Work Session  
Kalispell • Mon., 1:00 pm to Thurs. noon  
Hilton Garden Inn, 1840 US Highway 93 S.  
*Pre-registration required*

### Nov. 20

Western Interoperability Consortium (WICC)  
Missoula • 10:00 - noon  
Missoula County Courthouse, 200 W. Broadway  
Emergency Management Office, basement

### Nov. 21

IM Contract Management Sub-Committee  
Helena • 8:30 am – noon  
Dept. of Corrections Annex Bldg., Behind 515 N. Sanders

### Nov. 24

IM Technical Committee Meeting  
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
State Capitol, Room 172

### Nov. 25

IM Sustainability Plan Work Session  
Helena • Location and time to be announced

### Dec. 1

IM Finance Committee  
Helena • 9:00 am - Noon  
Anderson & Zurmuehlen • 828 Great Northern Blvd.

### Dec. 1

IM Governance Committee  
Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm  
Dept. of Corrections Annex Conf. Rm.  
Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

### Dec. 2

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting  
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
State Capitol, Room 152

### Dec. 5

Big Sky 11 Consortium  
Billings • 10:00 am – noon  
Billings Fire Station #1/EOC - 2300 9th Ave N.